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PATENT**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant:	Kume	Examiner:	Anh-Tuan T. Nguyen
Serial No.:	09/655,232	Art Unit:	3763
Filed:	September 5, 2000	Docket:	SMP0179US02
Title:	METHOD OF USING AN INTRAVASCULAR BALLOON CATHETER IN COMBINATION WITH AN ANGIOSCOPE		

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION AND AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Madam:

In response to the Office Action dated December 12, 2002, please amend this application as follows. Claims 6-9, 12-14 and 18-21 remain pending in this application; claims 27-42 have been withdrawn from further consideration.

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 10, 11, 22 and 23.

Remarks**Rejections Under 35 USC § 102(e)**

The Examiner rejected claims 6-14 and 18-23 under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Lenker et al.* (5,860,923). *Lenker* was filed on January 30, 1995. Applicant's pending claims 6-9, 12-14 and 18-21 are supported by the specification of the Applicant's original application filed February 22, 1994. As such, *Lenker* is not a valid 102(e) rejection. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 USC § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 15-17 and 24-26 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Lenker et al.* in view of *Mische et al.* (5,490,859) or in view of *Becker et al.* (5,169,386). As stated above, *Lenker* is not prior art to the Applicant's pending claims. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.